IN THE CLAIMS:

Please write the claims to read as follows:

1   1. - 35. (Cancelled)

1   36. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

2   detecting a failure of a primary virtual port on a ~~first~~ physical port of a first server,

3   wherein the primary virtual port has an identity;

4   activating a secondary virtual port on ~~a second~~the physical port of the first server,

5   the ~~second~~ physical port adapted to support two or more virtual ports that share the

6   ~~second~~ physical port;

7   configuring the secondary virtual port with the identity of the failed primary

8   virtual port; and

9   servicing one or more storage devices owned by the first server through the

10   secondary virtual port on the first server.

1   37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein detecting the failure is in

2   response to initiating a failover procedure during a scheduled maintenance on the first

3   server.

1   38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein detecting a failure in the first

2   server further comprises: detecting a lack of a heartbeat signal from the first server at a

3   second server.

1   39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, further comprising:

2   determining that the primary virtual port has been recovered;

3   terminating service requests to the secondary virtual port;

4   deactivating the secondary virtual port; and

5   servicing the storage devices owned by the first server through the primary virtual

6 port.

1 40. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium including program instructions

2 when executed operable to:

3   detecting a failure of a primary virtual port on a ~~first~~ physical port of a first server,

4 wherein the primary virtual port has an identity;

5   activating a secondary virtual port on ~~a second~~ the physical port of the first server,

6 the ~~second~~ physical port adapted to support two or more virtual ports that share the

7 ~~second~~ physical port;

8   configuring the secondary virtual port with the identity of the failed primary

9 virtual port; and

10   servicing one or more storage devices owned by the first server through the

11 secondary virtual port on the first server.

Please add the following new claims 41 *et seq*:

1 41. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein configuring the secondary virtual port further

2 comprises:

3   setting a node name of the secondary virtual port to a node name of the primary

4 virtual port; and

5   setting a port name of the secondary virtual port to a port name of the primary

6 virtual port.

1   42. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein the storage network comprises a Fibre

2   Channel (FC) network and wherein the node name comprises a FC World Wide Node

3   Name.

1   43. (New) The method of claim 36 further comprising processing, by the first server, data

2   access requests directed to the secondary virtual port.

1   44. (New) The method of claim 43 further comprising processing, by the first server, data

2   access requests directed to a third virtual port, the third virtual port also associated with

3   the physical port.

1   45. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the secondary virtual port is in standby mode

2   prior to the failure on the primary virtual port.

1   46. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 40 wherein configuring the

2   secondary virtual port further comprises:

3   setting a node name of the secondary virtual port to a node name of the primary

4   virtual port; and

5   setting a port name of the secondary virtual port to a port name of the primary

6   virtual port.

1   47. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 46 wherein the storage network

2   comprises a Fibre Channel (FC) network and wherein the node name comprises a FC

3   World Wide Node Name.

1   48. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 40 further comprising processing, by

2   the first server, data access requests directed to the secondary virtual port.

1   49. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 48 further comprising processing, by

2   the storage server, data access requests directed to a third virtual port, the third virtual

3   port is associated with the physical port.

1   50. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 40, wherein the secondary virtual

2   port is in standby mode prior to the failure on the primary virtual port.

1   51. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 40, wherein the secondary virtual

2   port is in standby mode prior to the failure on the primary virtual port.

1   52. (New) A storage server, comprising

2   a physical port configured to communicate with a client over a network;

3   a plurality virtual ports associated with the physical port, wherein there is at least

4   one primary virtual port and a secondary virtual port; and

5   a storage operating system executed by a processor, the processor configured to:

6   (i) detect a failure in the primary virtual port, the primary virtual port having an identity,

7   (ii) in response to detecting the failure, activate the secondary virtual port, (iii) configure

8   the secondary virtual port with the identity of the failed primary virtual port, and (iv)

9   service one or more storage devices owned by the storage server through the secondary

10   virtual port on the storage server.

1   53. (New) The storage server of claim 52, wherein the secondary virtual port is in

2   standby mode prior to the failure on the primary virtual port.

1   54. (New) The storage server of claim 52, wherein the identity includes a node name and

2   a port name of the primary virtual port.